

PATENT

D. REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 2, 4-17, and 19-26 are currently present in the Application, and claims 1, 11, and 16 are independent claims.

Drawings

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's acceptance of Applicant's formal drawings, filed with the Application on April 5, 2001.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 11-15 are allowed. The Examiner has also indicated that claims 3 and 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. To expedite prosecution of the present Application, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation previously found in dependent claim 3, and dependent claim 3 has been cancelled. Similarly, independent claim 16 has been amended to include the limitation previously found in dependent claim 18, and dependent claim 18 has been cancelled. As a result, all remaining claims in the Application are in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - Alleged Anticipation Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2, 4-10, 16-17, and 19-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Talmor et al., U.S. Publication No. 2003/0135740 (hereinafter Talmor). Based on the amendments discussed above, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is now moot.

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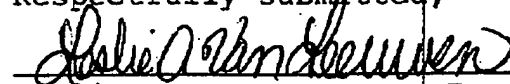
Conclusion

As a result of the foregoing, it is asserted by Applicant that the remaining claims in the Application are in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests an early allowance of such claims.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the Applicant's attorney listed below if the Examiner believes that such a discussion would be helpful in resolving any remaining questions or issues related to this Application.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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